

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN,
EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER
459 C Street Northwest.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1899

AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE.

THE COLORED AMERICAN wants good active agents to canvass for subscriptions at all points not now pre-empted. Good inducements offered. Write at once for terms, etc. Address

THE COLORED AMERICAN,
459 C Street N. W.,
Washington, D. C.IN THE LEAD.
There are 112 newspapers, with a combined circulation each issue of 76,500 copies, published in the interests of the 4,700,000 Afro-Americans in the United States. The one paper believed to have the largest circulation is THE COLORED AMERICAN, Washington, D. C.—Printers Ink, June 24, '96.

IS KILLING NEGROES A CRIME?

The Colored American has no sympathy with polygamy and no toleration for polygamists, but the hysterical clamor and much ado raised by the people of this country over the seating of Brigham H. Roberts, when crimes equally as heinous as that with which he is charged, are dismissed with a wink, certainly tries our patience to the limit. Here is a man compelled to step aside upon an allegation of somebody that he has married more wives than the law allows. He is denied the position to which he was fairly elected, and his sovereign state is today without representation in the lower house of Congress. Without going into the details of the case, we submit that a dangerous precedent is established when a duly certified legislator, bearing prima facie evidence of his title to recognition, is refused admission on the unproven statement of one or more persons, whose knowledge of the facts may be open to question. We think Roberts' credentials gave him the right to be sworn in, and that the charges should have gone to the proper committee, just as is the rule in other cases where a seat is contested. In thus shutting Roberts out, without process of law, we are inclined to believe that a mistake has been made, which in the future, when majorities are slender, may return to plague those who are parties to the present transaction. Roberts is an innocent man, until his guilt and unfitness are established by authorities qualified to pass upon the evidence brought forward.

The milk in the cocoanut with us is this: If the virtue and dignity of Congress are so tenderly regarded why in the name of common sense and decency is not the rod of chastisement directed with like vigor toward others whose claims to membership are tinged with blood, and whose alleged election are the result of theft, forgery and assassination? Why is no protest raised, no hue and cry sounded from the firesides of the land, when fiends like Bellamy, of North Carolina, whose yell of victory rings discordantly with the groans of Negro victims now lying at the bottom of Cape Fear River? Why do not the fair women of our land circulate petitions to purge our Congressional halls of a man who exiled hundreds of families from Wilmington, and caused mothers and babes to perish from exposure and fright in the forests of Hanover County? If Roberts is objectionable from the violation of one article of the moral code, Bellamy and his kind are inconceivably so as enemies to every command in the decalogue. If the public well demanded that Roberts be unhorsed, the good name of the nation in no less a degree demanded the exit of Bellamy and every other member who comes from districts where ballot suppression, intimidation and murder deprive the electors of their lawful privileges.

Is the conscience of the nation dead

that the torturing and killing of Negroes fail to awaken a responsive thro? If the government can do nothing, why are our press and pulpit so silent when news of tragedies like that of Maysville, Ky., is flashed over the wires? Talmage discourses with vim and eloquence upon the horrors of Mormonism, but his tongue is dumb when the first principle of civilization is trampled in the dust, and the functions of the court, jury and executioner are usurped by irresponsible mobs. The air of our Capital is noisome by reason of the presence of a polygamist, but the companionship of rebels against the peace and prosperity of the country, is accepted without serious question.

There is indeed a bright side to the Negro's condition in America, and we are fond of presenting it.

There is a somber coloring, too, that obscures much of our light which only a long process of education and civilization can remove. We do not expect a solution of the problem in a day, but we do expect and have a right to expect that the friends of humanity and justice will not leave too much to time, but exert themselves now toward crushing out needless inequalities, needless inconsistencies and go on record that law-breakers, black or white, Mormon or Gentile, remain outside of the favor of the governing forces of society.

The majesty of the LAW must be upheld at any cost, and establishment of guilt should always precede the infliction of penalties. Roberts and Bellamy are both charged with crime, and there is no reason, except a worked-up public sentiment, why fish should be made of one and flesh of the other.

Is not the killing of Negroes as grave an offense as the violation of the seventh commandment?

Those editors who found it necessary to strike over the head every southerner, in order to get a crack at the Tuskegee Wizard, are finding that they have stirred up a hornet's nest. The Richmond Reformer defends their manhood, intelligence and race loyalty in a style that simply pulverized the traducer of the sons of the Southland. Some of the best specimens of the culture and refinement of latter-day civilization were born and bred below the Mason's and Dixon's line, and we are glad to stand up and to be counted as their friend.

The President has spoken. Now then!

We have had little to say anent the plan to change the basis of representation in the next national republican convention. The arguments have been gone over many times and the revision has been abandoned as impracticable, for present uses at least. The South, and of course, the Negro would be reduced in strength, without commensurate benefits being offered from any other source. We have no idea that any change will be made before the question of southern congressional representation is settled. No radical action need be apprehended just now, and Mr. McKinley will be renominated next summer in the "same sweet way."

The President's message has met with general indorsement at the hands of the Negro press.

Booker T. Washington is feeling good over the defeat of the Hardwick bill in Georgia. He labored early and late and threw the whole weight of his influence to overthrow this effort to destroy the Negro's citizenship. He is of the opinion that this pulverization of Hardwickism means the beginning of a newer and brighter era for the entire South.

Warm times are "on the cards" in North Carolina.

Congressman White is a man, every inch of him. He is the single representative of 10,000,000 American citizens, and he enjoys their fullest confidence. There isn't a one of them in all the land that isn't proud of the record he has made and is making in the national legislature.

President McKinley will be his own successor.

The Negro exhibit at Paris should be a success. It should represent our highest capabilities. Give Director Calloway the proper support, every body, and the showing will be up to the standard. Write Mr. Calloway at Washington for any information desired.

We have a right to expect good results from the Congress that has just come in.

Manager Chase is practically a stranger in Washington, but he is better known by his police record than by any acumen as a theatrical manager. He is said to have a court record elsewhere, before his attempt to import Georgia methods into the Nation's Capital.

General Taylor has been inaugurated as Governor of Kentucky, and the blue grass state is spared the stain of Goebelism. No casualties.

And Bishop Walters simply smiles.

A lyncher is no better than his victim.

Lynching is a national crime, and the law should so declare it.

The public official who stands by his friends will make no mistakes.

People who know the least, frequently talk the most.

It looks like Secretary of War Root for vice president. We have a great deal of faith in Mr. Root.

The man who succeeds must work, be he white or black. He may not get all he earns, but he will usually earn all he gets.

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Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Afro-American Council.

Bishop Alexander Walters, through vice-chairman Jesse Lawson, has called a meeting of the executive committee of the National Afro-American Council, to convene in Washington on the 28th and 29th of December. The Council has much on hand, looking to the betterment of the race such as an investigation into the constitutionality of certain southern election laws, the pushing of the White bill to give the federal authorities jurisdiction in cases of lynching and public disorder, examining the effect upon the southern laborer of the convict lease system and the credit method in dealing out supplies, and the presentation of important facts and data before the Industrial Commission with the hope of inspiring remedial legislation. These matters will occupy the attention of this meeting of the committee, and the promoters of the organization expect a large and representative attendance, as the time selected is highly propitious for members within a radius of five hundred miles. The Council is here to stay, and evidence is abundant showing that its existence has brought about good results for the Afro-American. The body is non-partisan, and its platform of race progress and protection is one upon which every colored man, whatever his politics, religion or occupation can safely stand.

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"There is much talk in Paris as to what will be the chief attraction of the exhibition. It will be the educational work that is being done for our Negroes. I think this exhibition will show other nations that we know how to solve the Negro problem upon intelligent civilized lines. Some foreigners think we have nothing for the Negro but the bludgeon and the revolver. We shall convince them otherwise."

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"PHIL" WATERS,
West Virginia's Famous Boy Orator and Politician.

THE KANAWHA'S BOY ORATOR

The Meteoric Political Career of a Young Man
Whose Name will Scintillate Upon the
Pages of History.

Canvassed a Congressional District at the Age of Fifteen—Delegate to many Conventions and Winner of Numerous Trophies in Forensic Contests—As Corporation Clerk, Writes More Charters than any Similar Official in the United States—What Industry and Fidelity to Duty Can Accomplish in Spite of Racial Disadvantages.

Possibly no state in the Union can boast of a more versatile and accomplished young man of our race than West Virginia. Favored by nature and environment, this rich and resourceful commonwealth ever against the blue Alleghenies, amid the hum of the spindle, the merry click of the miner's pick and the musical roar of the coke furnace, has given to the world the subject of this sketch, "Phil" Waters, known far and wide as the "Boy Orator of the Kanawha."

He first saw the light in Leeburg, Va., however, August 27, 1873, and is the son of Rev. J. W. Waters, a leading member of the Washington Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. From boyhood "Phil" was noted for his marvellous powers of declaiming in public. He entered Morgan College, Baltimore, Md., at the age of eleven, graduating in 1891.

During his stay there, he won the prize for the best English oration, also the declamatory medal. He then attended Howard University for a brief period, being compelled to leave on account of sickness.

Having acquired a love for the study of law, and possessing the quality of mind best adapted to that intricate branch of knowledge, he matriculated at the University of Michigan, and graduated in the class of '95.

Mr. Waters is best known on account of his remarkable political career. His success in politics has been of the most phenomenal and meteoric character, and while brilliant and and dashing in execution, every step forward has been gained and kept by the force of hard and well directed effort, ceaseless activity, and a degree of industry almost beyond description. He burned his "midnight oil," and though by no means an ascetic, the "frolic" had no charms for him when clean-cut work was to be performed, upon which his reputation as a man and scholar might depend.

He began his political career when only fifteen years of age, canvassing the seventh Congressional district of Virginia for John E. Rollins against Ex-Governor C. T. O'Ferrall in 1888, speaking in every county in the district. In 1892, before he had attained his majority, he was chosen as a delegate to the West Virginia State Republican Convention, and attracted widespread attention by his speech nominating Hon. G. W. Atkinson for governor. The same year he canvassed the second Michigan congressional district for Gen. Spaulding.

Immediately after graduating from the University of Michigan, Mr. Waters settled in Charleston, West Virginia. He was a delegate to all the conventions of 1896, and at the state convention of that year again presented the name of Mr. Atkinson in a marvellously magnetic speech.

The Cincinnati Enquirer said: "The speech of the young colored orator, Phil Waters, was the gem of the convention." He was elected permanent secretary of the state convention that selected delegates to the national convention at St. Louis, though there were only six colored delegates out of a body numbering nine hundred. This was the first instance where a colored man had ever been thus honored in the state. He took an active part in the stirring campaign which followed, and

was tendered the position of private secretary by Congressman Dorr, but declined. In 1897, he was elected librarian of the House of Delegates, being the first colored man to be named for this distinction. Afterwards he was appointed by Gov. Atkinson as corporation clerk in the office of the Secretary of State. Not only was he the first colored man to receive such an appointment in the history of West Virginia, but was the first republican clerk that had sat at a desk in the Executive Department for a quarter of a century.

Owing to the favorable corporation laws of West Virginia, Mr. Waters writes more charters for corporations than any other similar clerk in the United States. He has issued as high as forty per day. It is also said that he is one of the most accurate and rapid pensmen in the state, if not actually the very best. Mr. Waters was one of the delegates at large to the National Republican League of Clubs that met at Detroit in 1898. He is close to the "powers" in West Virginia, and being an ardent champion of his race has thus been able to be of valuable service in a number of trying emergencies. He enjoys the fullest confidence of all the state officers, from Gov. Atkinson down.

Mr. Waters is highly respected by the masses and the masses wherever he is known, and with his little family, stands for all that is essential to the social and moral advancement of the Afro-American people. He is in great demand upon all public occasions, replete, etc. His speech introducing the lamented Douglass to Charleston citizens in 1892, and the farewell address delivered at the close of the reception tendered by West Virginia to Booker T. Washington, are regarded as masterpieces of forensic eloquence. Though praised upon all hands, Mr. Waters has too much "mother wit" to allow his head to become swollen. Plain and unassuming, he never considers that he "knows it all," and it is a source of perennial pleasure to seek the inspiration offered in his "den," surrounded by one of the best stocked libraries in the entire commonwealth, or discussing with a mutual friend some plan by which this mundane sphere might be made better, brighter and happier. He is a mixer in the truest sense of the word, and is popular with all elements, regardless of political affiliations.

When the historian of the twentieth century comes to write of those who have contributed generously to the civilization of the times, and who have aided force to the wheel of progress, he will record not far from the top of his most brilliant page, the name and deeds of one "Phil" Waters, the "Boy Orator of the Kanawha."

R. W. THOMPSON.

It Beats Them All.

It beats them all! Rector's new Pictorial and Historical Chart. It is the new Negro for the new Century with facts, theories and statistics. It is ornamental for the home—useful for children. If you have no library you cannot do without it; your children have no incentive to labor unless they see it. It contains our leading institutions of learning, leading living creatives of thought and sentiment. Every man represents an idea—Bowler for scholarship, Turner for colonization, Morris for organization, Dunbar for poetry, Tanner for art, Washington for education, etc. Seventeen portraits of distinguished leaders and hundreds of facts concerning the race's progress. Our lamented Douglass and Cuba's martyr, Maceo. Agents are wanted in every county and state in the Union. Secure terms and territory on the first edition. Address, John K. Rector, 904 Broadway, Street, Arkansas.

"An Humble Unit" from Albany, N. Y., writes a very pertinent letter to The Colored American. If "Unit" will give us his name, not for publication but as a guarantee of good faith, we shall be glad to print it.

Montclair, N. J., News.

The Colored American is in great demand here. Everybody calls for it, and the agent can scarcely supply the demand. Mr. C. H. Baker conducts one of the best restaurants in the city. Meals are served at all hours in first class style. Call on him at 551 Bloomfield avenue.

NOTICE.

Mr. P. A. Hairston, formerly collector on this paper, is not now in any way connected with it. The public is hereby warned against paying him any money on the accounts of The Colored American.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Henry are in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

The Mysterious Assassination.

One night, shortly after the celebrated battle of Fontenoy, its hero, Marshal De Saxe, arrived at a little village in which was an inn with a peculiar reputation. It was said that in this inn there were ghosts who stabbed or strangled all who attempted to pass the night in a certain room.

The conqueror of Fontenoy was far from being susceptible to superstitious terrors, and was ready to face an army of ghosts. He dismounted, ate his supper, and went up to the fatal room, taking with him his arms and his body servant.

His arrangements completed, the Marshal went to bed and was soon in a profound slumber, with his sentinel unsconced in an arm chair by the fire. About 1 o'clock in the morning the watcher by the fire, wanted to get some sleep himself, approached his master to awaken him, but to his call he received no response. Thinking the Marshal soundly asleep he called again. Startled at the continued silence, the man shook him; the Marshal did not stir.

As he lifted his hands from the form in the bed, the frightened servant saw that they were red. The Marshal was lying in a pool of blood! Drawing down the cover the soldier saw a strange thing. An enormous insect was fastened to the side of De Saxe, and was sucking at a wound from which the blood flowed freely.

The man sprang to the fireplace, grasped the tongue, and ran back to the bed. Seizing the monster he cast it into the flames, where it was instantly consumed.

Help was called, and the Marshal was soon out of danger, but the great General, who had escaped fire and steel for years, had barely escaped dying of the bite of an insect. He had found the ghost.

A Freak in Poultry.

About three months ago Mr. Frisch, of Thirty-seventh and Market Streets, received from his brother, who is a missionary in India, two eggs that were joined together. A new avian specimen explained that they were peacock eggs, and a great curiosity on account of their strange form. Now Mr. Frisch has a friend in West Philadelphia who is a poultry farmer and the idea struck him to have the eggs hatched in an incubator. In the course of a month the shells fell apart, and instead of two separate birds stepping out, the pair came forth joined together by a thick band of what appeared to be gristle.

By dint of extreme care and careful feeding, the strange pair were nursed through childhood, and are now beginning to get pin feathers of various colors.—Philadelphia Record.

The Lizard was too Sly.

While in the country last Sunday, the editor of The Gazette saw a black snake try to capture a lizard for its dinner. The lizard had the better of the snake in the contest, which took place in a cluster of saplings. The lizard would run up a sapling clear to the top and patiently wait until the snake would slowly wind its way about half way up the sapling, when the lizard would jump from the top of the tree to the ground, and the snake would fling itself from the tree, both striking the ground about the same time, but before the snake could get itself straightened out, the lizard, which did not have to uncoil, would scale up another sapling, when the snake would repeat its effort to procure a dinner. The snake, not being the ready climber the lizard was, was at a great disadvantage in the contest, and, after many efforts, apparently gave it up as a fruitless job.—Greenup (Ky.) Gazette.

The Wife as First Clerk.

In French families, where the father conducts any business, the wife becomes his best clerk and usually his cashier. The wives are exceedingly intelligent and acute, extremely sharp at driving bargains, and accurate in keeping accounts. They are their husbands' partners in every sense of the word, and it is wonderful to see how they acquit themselves of such a multiplicity of duties. Self is completely unflinched; and if weak health is mentioned, it is never an impediment to what they have to do for their children or their husbands.